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# Have You Heard the News?

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## **VITA Offers New Service for Continuity of Operations Plans**

—VITA negotiates \$194,500 in volume discounts—

**February 20, 2004**

The Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) announced a new service for state agencies and institutions of higher education to assist with the development, testing, and maintenance of continuity of operations plans (COOP). VITA worked with the Virginia Information Providers Network (VIPNet) to acquire an optional enterprise solution from COOP Consulting—a small, woman-owned business headquartered in Virginia—that could help agencies and institutions meet planning deadlines at significantly reduced rates. VITA saved the Commonwealth \$194,500 by negotiating volume discounts on an initial block of licenses.

On September 30, 2003, agencies and institutions received a memo from the Governor's Office that provided guidance for strengthening homeland security and the Commonwealth's responses to disasters like Hurricane Isabel. The memo calls for undertaking a renewed COOP planning process and certifying to the Governor in writing by June 1, 2004, that COOP plans have been developed and tested and are being maintained.

To provide agencies and institutions with options to help them fulfill these responsibilities, VITA worked rapidly with VIPNet to provide enterprise tools and solutions to assist with developing COOP plans that comply with industry standards and meet the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

VITA has acquired an optional, enterprise-wide licensing agreement with COOP Consulting, LLC, to provide myCOOP continuity planning software tools at a significantly reduced rate for state agencies and institutions of higher education to assist in preparing COOP plans. The agreement covers licensing for myCOOP software, which includes a complete package of templates, ongoing maintenance, and a range of training options.

VITA (Supply Chain Management) will also broker the expert service capabilities of consulting firms to provide for development of continuity plans, from the IT Advanced Services contracts VITA has in place. This group includes: BearingPoint, AMS, CACI, Unisys, and Northrop Grumman and their respective partners.

For more information please visit <http://www.vita.virginia.gov> or contact Benny Ambler at [benny.ambler@vita.virginia.gov](mailto:benny.ambler@vita.virginia.gov).

The creation of VITA by the 2003 General Assembly is intended to yield significant savings for the Commonwealth, and increased efficiencies and service improvements to the state's technology infrastructure.

To view this and other VITA Bulletins, visit <http://www.vita.virginia.gov/news/vitaBulletins/vitaBulletins.cfm>.

[www.vita.virginia.gov](http://www.vita.virginia.gov)



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